

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a stain-resistant dyed sheath/core nylon filament having an essentially undyed nylon sheath and an acid-dyed nylon core ~~which is surrounded entirely by said sheath~~, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a dye bath containing an acid dye;
- (b) ~~(a)~~ forming a nylon sheath/core filament from a nylon sheath polymer and a nylon core polymer which is surrounded entirely by the sheath polymer such that the filament contains less than about 10 wt.% of the sheath polymer, wherein the nylon sheath polymer that is resistant to, and thereby remains substantially undyed by, the acid dye in the dyeing by dyes in a dye bath and has an amine end group (AEG) content of less than about 10 meq/kg, and a wherein the nylon core polymer that is susceptible to dyeing by the acid dye dyes in the dye bath and has an AEG content of between about 10 meq/kg to about 100 meq/kg;
- (c) ~~(b)~~ bringing the nylon sheath/core filament formed in step (b) into contact with a dye bath; and
- (d) ~~(c)~~ allowing the ~~dyes~~ acid dye in the dye bath to physically diffuse or penetrate through the sheath to dye the core while the sheath remains substantially undyed.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein step ~~(a)~~ (b) is practiced to form a trilobal filament

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein step (b) is practiced such that the filament contains between about 90 wt.% to about 97 wt.% of the core polymer, and between about 3 wt.% to about 10 wt.% of the sheath polymer.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 5~~ claim 1, wherein the nylon sheath polymer has an AEG content of less than about 5 meq/kg.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the nylon sheath polymer is a nylon-6,12 homopolymer.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 or 6, wherein the ~~core is a~~ nylon core polymer ~~which~~ is at least one nylon selected from the group consisting of nylon-6, nylon-12, nylon-11, nylon-6/6, nylon-6/10 and copolymers and blends thereof.

9-20. (Canceled)